

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: KONO et al.

Filed: June 7, 2006

For: FUEL CARTRIDGE, FUEL CELL AND PORTABLE ELECTRICAL...

DOCKET: NEC DP-1058

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the subject Application, please amend the Application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Amendment.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this Amendment.

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claim 1, and amend claims 2-4, 8, 10, 11 and 12, as shown below. Please add new claims 13-18, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claim 1 (canceled)**

**Claim 2 (amended):** ~~[[The]] A fuel cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising that~~  
houses liquid fuel, comprising:

a gas-liquid separation film that separates the liquid fuel and fuel gas, which is the  
vaporized liquid fuel, from each other; and

a gas housing chamber that houses the fuel gas separated by the gas-liquid separation film.

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** The fuel cartridge according to claim ~~[[1 or]]~~ 2, further comprising a shutter that adjusts a degree of exposure of the gas-liquid separation film.

**Claim 4 (currently amended):** The fuel cartridge according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ 3, further comprising a discharge port that discharges the fuel gas separated by the gas-liquid separation film to the outside of the fuel cartridge.

**Claim 5 (original):** The fuel cartridge according to claim 4, further comprising discharged amount adjusting mechanism that adjusts an amount of the fuel gas discharged from the discharge port.

**Claim 6 (original):** A fuel cell comprising:

a fuel cartridge that houses a liquid fuel;

a recovery section that recovers fuel gas, which is vaporized liquid fuel and is housed in the fuel cartridge; and

a discharged amount control section that controls an amount of the fuel gas discharged from the fuel cartridge to the recovery section.

**Claim 7 (original):** The fuel cell according to claim 6, further comprising:

a discharge passage that discharges the fuel gas recovered to the recovery section to the air; and

an oxidizing treatment section that is provided in the discharge passage and oxidizes the fuel gas.

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** The fuel cell according to claim 6 [[or 7]], wherein the fuel cartridge comprises a gas-liquid separation film that separates the liquid fuel and the fuel gas from each other and the fuel cartridge is adapted to recover to the recovery section the fuel gas separated by the gas-liquid separation film.

**Claim 9 (original):** A fuel cell comprising:

a fuel cartridge that houses liquid fuel and comprises a gas-liquid separation film that separates the liquid fuel and fuel gas, that is vaporized liquid fuel, from each other;

a recovery section that recovers the fuel gas separated by the gas-liquid separation film in the fuel cartridge;

a discharge passage that discharges the fuel gas recovered to the recovery section to the air; and

an oxidizing treatment section that is provided in the discharge passage and oxidizes the fuel gas.

**Claim 10 (currently amended):** The fuel cell according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~, wherein the fuel cartridge is the fuel cartridge according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~.

**Claim 11 (currently amended):** The fuel cell according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~, wherein the fuel cartridge is detachably mounted.

**Claim 12 (currently amended):** A portable electrical appliance comprising a fuel cell according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 11~~.

**Claim 13 (new):** The fuel cell according to claim 9, wherein the fuel cartridge is the fuel cartridge according to claim 2.

**Claim 14 (new):** The fuel cell according to claim 9, wherein the fuel cartridge is detachably mounted.

**Claim 15 (new):** The fuel cell according to claim 10, wherein the fuel cartridge is detachably mounted.

**Claim 16 (new):** A portable electrical appliance comprising a fuel cell according to claim 9.

**Claim 17 (new):** A portable electrical appliance comprising a fuel cell according to claim 10.

**Claim 18 (new):** A portable electrical appliance comprising a fuel cell according to claim 11.

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**REMARKS**

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form consistent with the Article 19 Amendment in the International Application. Claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 3 and 4 amended to depend on claim 2. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 12 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

New claims 13-18 have been added to further scope the invention. No new matter has been added.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Patent Office via the electronic filing procedure on June 7, 2006 at Tucson, Arizona.



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